

FREE

Veterans Corner Newsletter

FREE

Hopi Veterans Services: "Putting Hopi & Tewa Veterans First"

16th Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day

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January 5, 2011

The Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs (ACIA), in partnership with the Arizona State Senate, and State of Arizona Tribal Liaisons, will host the 16th Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day (INTLD) on Tuesday, January 18th, 2011.

The purpose of this day is to celebrate the rich culture and history of Arizona's Tribes and Nations and also to address issues of mutual interest. Following up on recommendations produced at the 28th Annual Indian Town Hall, the ACIA is committed to developing a plan to identify proactive solutions to overcome challenges related to growth, which includes cultivating partnerships.

Beginning with a joint protocol session held in the Senate, featured speakers are planning to focus on the benefits of collaboration and coordination. During the catered lunch hour, guests will have the opportunity to visit with various state agencies and companies who specialize in various areas of economic and community development.

To accommodate our out-of-town guests, the room block "Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day" has been arranged at the Radisson Hotel Phoenix City Center at a rate of \$89.00 per a night. Reservations must be made by January 8, 2011 to ensure the discounted room rate. Reservation and payment are your responsibility. Please call (602) 604-4900 to make your reservation or visit the website at <http://tinyurl.com/2011INTLD>

Please visit our website at <http://azcia.gov/INTLD.asp> to **REGISTER for the event and complimentary meal ticket**. If you would like to **register as a program sponsor**, please contact me to reserve your space as soon as possible.

Kristine M. (Thomas) FireThunder, MBA

Executive Director, AZ Commission of Indian Affairs

EEO Coordinator, Governor's Office of Equal Opportunity

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Upcoming Events:

- Jan 17— Hopi Sinom Day and Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 18—AZ Indian Nations Day
- Jan 20—AZDVS visit to Hopi

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American Legion Hopi Post # 80 Donates Toys to Foster Children

On December 15, 2010, the American Legion Hopi Post #80 hosted their annual Christmas Dinner for Veterans, Active Duty and their families at the Hotevilla Elderly Center. Approximately 80 people showed up to eat a delicious hominy stew, side dishes and plenty of dessert for everyone. Commander Talas gave an year in review on the many activities Post 80 members participated in such as: Annual Lori Piestewa Memorial; Annual Hopi-Navajo Honor Run; Armed Forces Day Parade; VA Outreach Day on Hopi; annual Veterans Day and conducting US Burial Flag presentations for our deceased Veterans. Attendees brought donation of toys and when the night ended over 30 toys were collected for a needy organization. This years program recipient was the Hopi Guidance Center Foster Parents program which Ms. Carol James accepted on behalf of her office. Thanks to all who donated toys, food, desserts, and beverages for the Christmas Dinner. Special kudos to Ms. Diane Lucero for cooking the stew; to the Miss Hopi Royalty for their kind comments to the Veterans and Active Duty members; and to Ms. Pam Ovah, Hotevilla Elderly Center, for her stellar assistance during the event. The next American Legion Hopi Post #80 meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2011. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. Call Geno @ (707) 365-9418 for details.



Carol James accepting toys



Everyone enjoying dinner



Miss Hopi Royalty speaking

2011 Arizona Women's Military Conference

For all of you Facebook users out there, please pass this along to your contacts so they can learn about the Military Women's Conference on April 30 and May 1, 2011 at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel in Phoenix. We have a great planning committee who is working to finalize the program at this time. There will be three tracks so that the attendees will be able to choose the topics that are most interesting to them. We have gotten a commitment from the Vietnam Veterans of America to help with transportation needs of military women who would like to come but have transportation problems.

We are also working on donations from organizations who can help make this a memorable event. The VFW is trying to find grant funds to help and I've met with a few other organizations. The Air Force Association has also committed \$450 (and may have more coming in from other chapters). The more involvement we have from the veteran community and veteran-friendly businesses, the better it will be for our attendees.

We are expecting a very large number of women and there is no cost to register, so you may want to send in a completed registration form soon.

Gabe Forsberg, Strategic Planner/Women Veterans Coordinator
AZ Department of Veterans Services
3839 N. 3rd Street, Suite 209
Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 234-8431, fax (602) 297-6691

ARIZONA VETERANS' SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION HOST TOWN HALL MEETING

Phoenix, AZ – The Arizona Veterans' Service Advisory Commission invites all veterans, veteran service organizations and members of the community to a town hall style meeting on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. It will be held at Chinle School District Administration Bldg, US Hwy 191 Route 7, Chinle, AZ 86503.

The nine-member Commission, appointed by the Governor, is dedicated to serving the past and present military service personnel in Arizona. To accomplish this, the State has been divided into four regions with two Commissioners representing each region. In a continuing effort to unify and represent Arizona veterans, the Commission is conducting the meeting in its Region 2, consisting of Coconino, Navajo, Apache, & Gila Counties.

The purpose of the regional meetings is to engage and educate the members of the community, local officials and veterans as to the issues as they pertain to Arizona veterans. In order to facilitate this discussion, the Mayors/Town Managers and County Supervisors within the region have also been invited to attend. The agenda for the meeting includes an open forum/town hall discussion after concluding the general business portion of the meeting.

AZ Department of Veterans' Service Officer Visit

Tanya Dooline, Veterans Service Officer, AZ DVS, will be conducting VA benefits assistance for all Veterans who reside on or around the Hopi Reservation. Ms. Dooline will offer services on Thursday, January 20, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Hopi Veterans Services office, Hopi Guidance Center Administrative Building. She will assist with VA compensation and pension applications and medical enrollments. All Veterans and widows seeking help can stop by during the visit. You will need to bring a copy of your DD Form 214 or other documentation citing your military service. You can call Geno at (928) 737-1834 to make an appointment or to inquiry about this service.

VA Offers Benefits to OEF/OIF Veterans

5 Years of Cost Free Health Care — OEF/OIF combat Veterans can receive cost free medical care for any condition related to their service in the Iraq/Afghanistan theater for five years after the date of their discharge or release. In order to take advantage of these benefits, OEF/OIF Vets need to enroll in VA's health care system. Don't delay!

180 day dental benefit — OEF/OIF combat Veterans may be eligible for one-time dental care — but you must apply with 180 days of your separation date from active duty. Call Geno at (928) 737-1834 for details or stop by Hopi Veterans Services office.

3rd Annual Arizona Military Women's Conference Veteran Registration Form—April 30 & May 1, 2011

Keeping Us Connected

☐ Military Woman ☐ Guest

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Branch of Service: _____ Entry Date _____ Discharge Date _____

Check Age group: ☐ 18-29 ☐ 30-45 ☐ 46-60 ☐ 61-75 ☐ 76+

☐ Check here if you would like to speak to a counselor at the conference.

A variety of workshops will be available in break-out sessions. Topics includes: Education, Employment, Health, Estate Planning, Family Law, Living with Trauma, Professional Image and Planning for Your Future.

Call Shirley Vega 480-785-2683 or 602-689-4270 with any questions regarding registration.

Registration is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. No registrations will be taken after the cut-off date of April 1, 2011.

Mail to: Registration Chair, Arizona Military Women's Conference, 3839 N. 3rd Street, Suite 209, Phoenix, AZ 85012 or fax to 602-297-6691.

Email to Shirley Vega, savegal967@yahoo.com, or Gabe Forsberg, gforsberg@azdvs.gov

If you want to donate to help with the cost of this conference contact ADVS at 602-255-3373 (Main Switchboard). Checks must be made out to Veterans Donation Fund and mailed to: Financial Services Division, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, 3839 N. 3rd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85012.

Hosted by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services



Page 4 **AZ Coalition For Military Families Hosts Military Immersion Training
Feb 9 &10, 2011 — Phoenix, Arizona**

CIVILIANS...have you ever wondered what it's like to be in the military?

You are invited to join in a unique experiential learning event that will increase your understanding of military culture and the impact of service, deployment and reintegration on service members and their families.

- Stay overnight at a military base.
- Interact with service members and learn about the military world.
- Get up close to military vehicles and equipment.
- Gain new insight into how best to assist and support service members, veterans and families.

YOU WILL LIVE IT...YOU WILL LEARN IT - Equip yourself and your organization to provide the best care and support possible to our service members and their families!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Health, behavioral health, social service and community providers. Organizations are encouraged to send 2-4 representatives to the training! Contact www.ArizonaCoalition.org / info@arizonacoalition.org

1. Strengthen Arizona's capacity to serve and support the military and veteran population by increasing the number of civilian providers trained in military/veteran culture.
2. Equip civilian health, behavioral health and support service providers with knowledge and skills that increase their ability to provide high quality care and support to the military and veteran population.
3. Promote the provision of integrated care and support by connecting civilian providers to military and veteran resources and treatment providers.

Agenda (Please note that start and end times will remain but content is subject to change.)

Wed, Feb 9th

1200 - 1300 Arrival & Registration
1315 - 1445 Opening ceremony
1445 - 1530 Divide up into platoons
1530 - 1700 *Boots on the Ground*
1730 - 1900 Dinner
1900 - 2200 Evening activities
2200 Lights out

Thurs, Feb 10th

Morning Physical Training (PT)
0700—0900 Breakfast, personal time & inspection
0900—1000 Video & discussion with platoons
1015—1115 Briefing—key issues & resources
1130—1230 Lunch
1300—1400 Equipment & personnel
1500—1600 Closing / After Action Review (AAR)

The training will take place at the Arizona National Guard Joint Force Headquarters at 52nd Street and McDowell Road in Phoenix, Arizona. Security and driving/parking directions will be provided to attendees prior to the event. Please note that at the beginning of the training you will be asked to sign a liability waiver and a media release for the event. If you have any questions about this, please contact us. Registration fees include all meals (dinner, breakfast, lunch, snacks), one night of lodging and all materials.

Payment can be made by cash, check or purchase order. Continuing Education Units may be available for some professions, pending approval. Updates will be posted on the Arizona Coalition for Military Families website.

Early bird registration (before 1/28) \$45

Regular registration (after 1/28) \$55

If you would like to attend this event, but cost is a barrier, please contact us about the availability of scholarships.

Register online at: <http://acmfmilitaryimmersion.eventbrite.com>

For more information please email info@arizonacoalition.org.



Deadline for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay Extended

The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP) has been extended to March 4, 2011, allowing personnel more time to apply for the benefits they've earned under the program guidelines.

The deadline extension is included in the continuing resolution signed by President Obama today, providing funding for federal government operations through March 4, 2011.

"There was a surge of applicants as we approached our earlier deadline, but there may still be more out there who have yet to apply," said Lernes Hebert, director, Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management. "We are pleased that this extension was included in the continuing resolution which will give those remaining the opportunity to apply as we continue to work through the current applications."

The RSLSP was established to compensate for the hardships military members encountered when their service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss Authority between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible members or their beneficiaries may submit a claim to their respective military service in order to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status.

When RSLSP began on Oct. 21, 2009, the services estimated 145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries were eligible for this benefit. Because the majority of those eligible had separated from the military, the services have engaged in extensive and persistent outreach efforts over the past 14 months. Outreach efforts including direct mail, engaging military and veteran service organizations, social networks and media outlets, will continue through March 4, 2011.

To apply for more information, or to gather more information on RSLSP, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>

The following service-specific sites provide more information and allow you to begin the RSLSP claim process.

Army

877-736-5554

www.stoplosspay.army.mil

Navy

901-874-4427

www.npc.navy.mil

Marine Corps

877-242-2830

www.manpower.usmc.mil

Air Force

800-525-0102

www.afpc.randolph.af.mil

General Procedure

Individuals who meet eligibility criteria may submit an application between Oct. 21, 2009 and March 4, 2011. By law, there is no authorization to make payments on claims that are submitted after March 4, 2011.

Eligible members should visit their specific service's Web site and submit their application on-line; on-line submission provides a claim number, allows for automated status updates, and provides a means for the military service to contact the applicant.

If eligible members do not have internet access, they should print, complete and sign Department of Defense Form 2944, Claim for Retroactive Stop Loss Payment. Next, choose the appropriate method for submitting the claim form and available supporting documents based on your service specifications. This information can be found on your service's stop loss Web site.

The following documents are examples of authorized source documents but may not be comprehensive, depending on specific status and service.

Note on Eligibility

Effective Dec. 19, 2009, per the Defense Appropriations Act, stop-lossed service members who voluntarily reenlisted or extended their service, and received a bonus for such reenlistment or extension of service, became ineligible to receive retroactive stop loss special pay. There may be rare circumstances where an individual can be eligible for this pay and have received a bonus. The Department continues to encourage all who believe they may qualify to apply and allow a service counselor to review each individual situation.

Here is MOS' Monthly Communication Plan for January 2011. The Communication Plan is a 1-page information tool that lists various resources pertinent to the content focus of the month. This month's Monthly Content Focus is one that strikes a chord with most folks these days: Money and Budgets. Please pass this valuable resource to those military families and POCs in your areas.

Garland Miller

Military OneSource

Arizona MOS Joint Family Support Assistance Program Consultant

Phone: 602-267-2430 Mobile: 602-513-1910



You name it. We can help—24/7! 1-800-342-9647 | www.MilitaryOneSource.com

Military OneSource Overview Brief: MOS Overview Standard Brief + Money and Budgets slide

Flyers: Financial Counseling Flyer, Money Matters Flyer, Taking Charge of Your Money CD Flyer, Tax Consultation and E-Filing Services Flyer

Topical List: Money Matters

Online Events

Webinars

- January 11 & 12 – Tutor.com Benefit Overview
- January 18 – New Year's Strategies for Success
- January 19 – Dealing with Debt
- January 20 & 24 – Couples and Money
- January 28 & 31 – Developing Responsibility and Independence: Skills You Can Teach Children

Moderated Chat

- January 26 – *Penny Pinching Strategies for Military Families*

Content

Educational Materials

- Filing Taxes When a Service Member Is Deployed
- How Service Members Can Stay Financially Fit During Deployment
- Financial Management Plan Worksheet
- Military Personal Financial Management Programs
- Money Traps to Avoid and Special Protections for Service Members and Their Families
- Managing Your Money When You're a New Service Member
- Personal Budget Management (booklet)
- Taking Charge of Your Money (CD)
- The Savings Deposit Program (SDP)

Tools & Services

- Financial Calculators
- Free Tax Filing Services and Consultations
- *Do You Have Debt?* self-assessment
- *Credit Card Realities* video
- *Money Matters* newsletter
- Online Libraries: Morningstar Investment Research Center, Home Improvement Reference Center, Auto Repair Reference Center

We are always looking for stories on our active duty troops. If you want to submit an article on your family member, you can email us the write-up and photo by the 15th of each month. Or you can bring in the picture and we can scan it. Our telephone number is (928) 737-1834 or you can email us at hopivets@yahoo.com.